

HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S BUDGET OUTLINE

Washington, DC- U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin released the following statement today in response to the release of the President's budget outline for Fiscal Year 2011.

"Our country faces two critical challenges, and both must be addressed: decreasing the national deficit and economic strength through job creation.

"I support the President's budget proposal to freeze spending, and applaud him for taking that step, but believe that we can and must do more to cut spending and bring down the debt. I am pleased that last week, the Senate passed tough new 'pay-as-you-go' rules that will require Congress to spend within its means. This has long been a priority of mine and of the Blue Dog Coalition, along with a fiscal commission to recommend changes to exploding growth in entitlement spending. These are both common sense tools that have bipartisan support and they should gain the backing of anyone who's serious about fiscal responsibility.

"The President's budget released today is a starting point. I will work hard with my colleagues to ensure that the final budget Congress passes includes responsible and targeted investments that will create jobs and spur growth. I'm disappointed that Lewis and Clark Regional Water System received just \$2 million, because it is a perfect example of the kind of project that is creating jobs and fostering economic development."

Herseth Sandlin noted that in recent years, under administrations of both parties, Lewis and Clark has initially received low funding that has been increased as Congress makes changes to the budget. She will, once again, work to increase this level of funding for Lewis and Clark as a critical part of economic development and water safety in South Dakota. When completed, the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System will provide safe drinking water to over 300,000 people in a roughly 5,000 square mile area including parts of South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota. The project received \$56.5 million in Recovery Act funds in 2009.

Herseth Sandlin highlighted several key South Dakota priorities that the President included in his budget:

- \$27.5 million for Mni Wiconi Rural Water Supply Project, to provide clean drinking water to Tribal and rural communities in western South Dakota.
- The President's budget also proposes up to \$194.4 million for the National Children's Study. SDSU in Brookings is one of the seven original NCS Vanguard Centers around the country. By tracking 100,000 children to age 21, the NCS will explore the major causes of childhood illnesses such as premature birth, asthma, obesity, preventable injury, autism, development delay, mental illness, and learning disorders.
- \$12.7 million in funding for the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) at Lead to conclude preliminary design activities and for pre-construction planning and related research and development. Additional funding will be needed to keep the project on track.
- \$125 billion in proposed funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, a 9.6% increase over funding levels enacted in FY 2010. This request includes funds to improve processing of

Post-9/11 G.I. Bill educational benefits and disability compensation claims. In addition, the budget prioritizes improving health care for women veterans and those suffering from traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as reducing veteran homelessness. The budget request also includes \$54.3 billion in advanced appropriations for VA health care in FY12, helping ensure veterans health care will not be affected by legislative delays in the appropriations process.

- The President's budget includes an increase of \$35 million over FY10 for forest management at the USDA Forest Service. This investment will allow the Black Hills National Forest to boost timber sales, supporting the local economy and at the same time reducing risks from pine beetles and wildfire. Rep. Herseith Sandlin led an effort in the House urging the Administration to bolster funding in the coming year.

- The budget request included \$200 million for the next generation bomber program (\$1.7 billion in FY11-15) as well as a strong statement in the Quadrennial Defense Review that the U.S. military needs to expand its long-range strike capabilities, including building long-range surveillance and strike aircraft as part of a comprehensive plan to modernize the bomber force. Ellsworth Air Force Base is very well positioned to receive an additional mission for the next generation bomber.

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